

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Initially, Applicants would like to acknowledge the indication of the allowability of originally filed claims 1-4 as set forth on Page 3 of the examiner's action.

The examiner in his office action had set forth claim objections to originally filed claims 1 and 2. Applicants by the instant amendment have amended claim 1 to change the term "bended" to "bent" and line 3 of claim 2 to change "piled up" to "aligned".

The examiner rejected claims 1-4 as originally filed under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant by the instant amendment has amended independent claim 1 so as to overcome the examiner's rejections and comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Particularly, the term "pipe locking jaws" has been amended to read "pipe locking ends". The terminology "pipe locking ends" is a more accurate description of the element 22 as can be clearly seen in Figure 3 of the drawings as originally filed. In order to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed phrase "pipe locking ends", Applicants have amended the specification so as to change the phrase "pipe locking jaws 22" to "pipe locking ends 22". Again,

as can be readily be seen from Figure 3, element 22 is better described as a "end" rather than a "jaw". As can clearly be seen from Figure 3 the now claimed pipe locking end 22 functions to restrict the depth to which the pipe 10 may be inserted.

In addition to the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended on line 3 thereof to indicate that it is the inner diameter of the connector body which is substantially the same as an inner diameter of a pipe inserted into the pipe coupling. Line 9 of claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the packing member is inserted and mounted in the connector body adjacent the locking ends. This is consistent with the examiner's interpretation and that which is shown in Figure 3 of the drawing. Page 5 of the specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error and provide support for the claimed subject matter now set forth on lines 9 and 10 of claim 1 as amended. Finally, claim 1 has been amended so as to overcome the antecedent problem raised by the examiner with respect to the phrase "both ends".

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 as amended comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

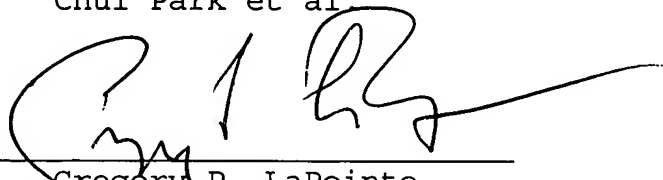
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

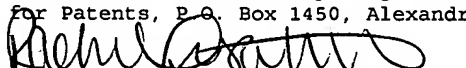
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 26, 2004.


Rachel Pistitelli